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SOURCE Le Petit Matin.

TUNISIAN LABOR UNION DEMANDS;  
LABOR FORCE STATISTICS

CFTC AFFILIATED UNIONS MAKE DEMANDS -- Tunis, Le Petit Matin, 17 Dec 52

On 14 December 1952, the Union Tunisienne des Syndicats Affilies a la CFTC (Tunisian Federation of Labor Unions Affiliated with the CFTC /Confederation Francaise des Travailleurs Chretiens, French Confederation of Christian Workers/) held a congress in Tunis. This congress passed an important resolution dealing with such labor problems as wages, family allowances, social security, unemployment, and collective bargaining. A summary of this resolution follows

Adherence to CFTC Principles

The congress reaffirms its adherence to the principles of the CFTC and recognizes its growing influence in Tunisia.

In connection with the ever-increasing difficulties encountered by the workers of Tunisia and their families, the congress draws attention to the principal demands which it has submitted several times to the authorities on their behalf. Furthermore, it draws attention to the seemingly neglectful attitude of the authorities toward these demands, the satisfaction of which would be but a simple case of social justice.

Wages, Sliding Price-Wage Scale

The congress draws attention to the fact that the Union Tunisienne des Syndicats Affilies a la CFTC has demanded that the Commission Centrale de Revision des Salaires (Central Wage Review Commission) approve a minimum hourly wage of 90 francs. Moreover, it insists that this pay rate is necessary to enable the workers to meet the rising cost of living. It further demands that a corresponding wage increase (percentage-wise) be granted also to agricultural workers.

The congress also demands that a sliding price-wage scale be established to enable wages to follow fluctuations in the cost of living.

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Collective Bargaining Agreements

The congress protests against the delay in the abrogation of the law of 5 November 1949 concerning collective bargaining agreements in Tunisia and demands its replacement by the adoption of the French Metropolitan Law of 11 February 1950.

Family Allowances

The congress demands the revision of the present system of family allowances, which, being based on pay rates, is disadvantageous for small wage earners. Accordingly, it demands uniform family allowances for all workers, using as a basis the number of actual working days with which workers are credited.

The congress further demands the following in this connection:

1. A special system of family allowances should be considered for agricultural workers.
2. A flat wage bonus should be granted to married workers, as well as an annual 3,000-franc educational allowance for each child, to be paid by the Caisses d'Allocations Familiales (Family Allowance Funds).
3. Family allowances should be granted indiscriminately also to the families of unemployed workers and workers with job-connected disabilities.

Social Security

The congress demands that a social security system similar to that of Algeria be established in Tunisia and that a commission composed of management and labor representatives be set up to work out and apply such a system.

Apprenticeship Statute

Recognizing the fact that trained manpower is necessary for the economic development of Tunisia, the congress deplors the delay in the promulgation of the apprenticeship statute drafted by the Comité du Travail (Labor Committee) and demands its immediate promulgation and implementation.

Unemployment

The congress demands that a campaign be organized against unemployment which is rampant in Tunisia. In this connection, the congress demands further that a public works program be worked out, along with the establishment of accelerated vocational training centers.

Taxes

The congress demands the abolition of taxes on wages and salaries for all categories of workers.

NEARLY HALF OF WORKERS IN TRADE AND INDUSTRY EMPLOYED BY LARGE FIRMS --  
Tunis, Le Petit Matin, 2 Nov 52

According to the Service Tunisien des Statistiques (Tunisian Statistical Service), nearly half of the Tunisian workers in trade and industry are employed by large firms, i.e., firms which employ 50 or more persons. This is based on a census of these categories of workers taken by the Service de la Main-d'Oeuvre (Manpower Service), in collaboration with the Confédération Générale du Commerce

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et de l'Industrie (General Confederation of Trade and Industry). This census was undertaken on 31 March 1950; its findings were published on 31 May 1952.

According to this census, Tunisia has 254 industrial and commercial establishments which employ 50 or more persons each. They are located in the following places: 143 in Tunis, 22 in the suburbs of Tunis, 16 in Sfax, 16 in Sousse, 14 in Bizerte, 5 in Mahdia, and 38 (mining concerns for the most part) in other places.

The census in question shows that these 254 establishments employ a total of 62,999 wage earners in the following categories: 8,500 white-collar workers, 34,748 unskilled workers, 10,858 semiskilled workers, 7,621 skilled workers, and 1,272 apprentices. The census shows further that 213 of these establishments are French-owned, 24 are Tunisian-owned, and 17 are foreign-owned.

As for their field of activity, the census shows that the 254 establishments are distributed as follows:

<u>Field of Activity</u>	<u>No of Establishments</u>	<u>No of Employees</u>
Fisheries and forestry	6	1,888
Water, gas, and electric power	5	1,465
Mining industry	33	14,629
Metallurgical industry	23	2,782
Glass and ceramics	21	4,390
Construction and public works	50	13,936
Chemical industry	7	1,010
Food industry	32	4,139
Textile industry	5	415
Leather industry	5	441
Other industries	11	920
Transportation and communications	18	12,164
Commerce	26	3,029
Banks, insurance firms, and agencies	12	1,791

As to nationality, the census shows that the establishments under discussion employ 12,247 French nationals (19.4 percent of the total), 42,347 Tunisians (67.2 percent of the total), and 8,405 foreign nationals (13.4 percent of the total). Of the French nationals, 43 percent are employed in the

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administrative field, 41 percent are skilled workers, and 16 percent are apprentices. Of the Tunisians, 74 percent are unskilled workers, 20 percent are skilled and semiskilled workers, and 6 percent are white-collar workers. Of the foreign nationals, 59 percent are skilled workers, 16 percent are white-collar workers, and 25 percent are unskilled workers and apprentices. French nationals are employed for the most part in transportation ( 35 percent of the total), mining, construction, public works, and financial organizations. Tunisians are employed for the most part in mining, construction, the food industry, and transportation. Foreign nationals are employed, for the most part, in mining and public works.

Tunisia has a serious shortage of skilled workers and specialists. Engineers and persons in related fields number 466, including 428 French nationals, 5 Tunisians, and 33 foreign nationals. Foremen and similar types of supervisory personnel numbers 1,303 including 863 French nationals, 137 Tunisians, and 303 foreign nationals. Management personnel numbers 681, including 533 French nationals, 92 Tunisians, and 76 foreign nationals.

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